

Perkins, Brandon

From: Russ Maddox [PII]
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2013 2:20 PM
To: Garcia, Lisa; Perkins, Brandon; Grass, Running
Subject: The messages DEC and DHSS were responding to.

FYI-

From: Russ Maddox [PII]
To: larry <larry.hartig@alaska.gov>
Cc: Dianne Soderland <Soderlund.Dianne@epamail.epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2013 11:31 AM
Subject: North Pole

Hi Larry,

I have been working with folks and attending public meetings and following every step since the first public announcement and response to the sulfolane plume. I am doing my best to connect injured parties to lawfirms that have the expertise and resources to help them. I have personally interviewed hundreds of folks up there. I just returned from a meeting I held to introduce injured parties to lawyers. I took advantage of having a large group and asked a number of questions. I asked folks to raise their hands if they knew somebody still drinking or bathing or using tainted water. Every hand in the room raised. There are folks who don't even know why cases of bottled water shows up on their doorstep. I asked folks to raise their hands if they have or know folks who have medical problems they associate with drinking and otherwise being exposed to tainted water. Again everyone in the audience raised their hands. I then asked folks if they knew anyone who had been asked about associated health problems. No hands were raised. I find this all very revealing and problematic.

Many new folks have moved in not knowing of the contamination and believe it or not there are folks who have lived there for years and have never even heard of sulfolane. Folks genearily feel oppressed over this mess and I feel they have just cause. Some of these folks are not real sophisticated and some don't even watch tv have internet or read the newspapers.

Another issue is the lack of analysis for anything other than sulfolane. Every chemist and petroleum engineer I have spoken to outside of Alaska says where there is sulfolane there will be BTX yet its not being targeted. With records of spills going back 50 years this cavalier attitude of the agencies is bothersome.

As far as noticing residents you all do a very poor job of getting the word out when you hold events and then you subject them to harrassment by Flint Hills as if they do come they are pestered to sign settlements. This last meeting in the mall was a virtual ambush. Flint Hills folks outnumbered agencies 10/1 and followed residents who hadn't settled into the parking lot to "urge" them to do so. This is bad practice. I also asked who all had attended meetings and was bummed to hear many weren't even aware there had been public meetings.

Why can't we put signs up at the edges of the plume indicating the water is undrinkable? Outside agencies in other regions sure post and warn folks rather than our agencies halfhearted efforts.

There are hundreds of folks with questionable medical conditions that have not been interviewed much less examined. The DHSS and ATSDR results and pronouncement is irresponsible as no distinction was made of folks who live in the plume or not, level of exposure, or length of exposure. There are sick babies and old folks and many in between. I will be holding more large private meetings to sort them all out and to assure their concerns are addressed. This will be done by all means available.

Most folks are not comfortable dealing with Flint Hills folks. Many folks feel harrassed over not having caved and signed settlements and most all feel oppressed by the genearyl flippant way their lives have been disaffected.

Sadly most all of the cases I am working on have a common thread and that is by all appearances the DEC is more concerned with the RP's bottom line than folks welfare much less the environment.



I know you are a good person and that you care, but your agency is not perceived as being helpful or trustworthy by common folk on the ground. I hope you will take this seriously and respond to each point I raised real soon.

Thank you kindly, Russ

North Pole

Hide Details

From

- Russ Maddox

To

- nim.ha@alaska.gov
- tamara.cardona@alaska.gov

Hello Nim and Tamara,

As I mentioned when I met you both at your most recent meeting in North Pole a while back there are many folks in North Pole with medical concerns and complaints and there are numerous folks unknowingly exposing themselves and their families to tainted water. It has become abundantly clear to me that many folks are unaware or don't comprehend the situation with the groundwater. I always hear of folks who have moved in that remain unaware that the water is bad, and even folks who have been there all along and somehow missed the news. Many folks toss what appears to be junkmail in the garbage and don't read local newspapers or get out often or at all and have been overlooked. The city and DEC use mail and internet and newspaper ads which inadvertently excludes some folks. There are also a number of illiterate individuals in the plume zone, too. With all of the confusion over disclosures and concealment of contamination it seems that warning signs are in order. In fact it seems negligent that they weren't posted all along. I recently took advantage of having a room full of folks who live in the plume and asked them a number of questions and asked for a show of hands for answers. I asked how many folks had health concerns or knew those that do and all hands were raised. I asked how many folks are using tainted water or know of folks who are and again every hand was raised. And again many folks have misinterpreted your lowering thresholds as that the toxicity of the plume overall is diminishing which is far from the truth. I asked who had been asked by agencies about health concerns and no hands were raised. I had folks tell me they were advised by real estate agents to conceal contamination and others who said they were required to reveal it. I asked how many folks received mailings alerting to your recent meeting and a handful of hands were raised. Then I followed up with how many folks had never received mailings announcing public meetings and over a dozen hands were raised. For all of these reasons and the public's general confusion of what is or isn't safe to use for what purpose signs including icons for those who cannot read or use different languages erected all around the plume zone to fully and equally protect anyone who may potentiall be exposed to tainted groundwater must be raised. I hope you will do all that you can to see that appropriate signage is erected throughout the tainted groundwater plume in North Pole.

Thanks for all of your efforts on behalf of our environment.

Regards, Russ

<http://www.mysafetysign.com/Safety-Signs/Water-Unsafe-To-Drink-Sign/SAF-SKU-S-2827.aspx>

<http://www.mysafetysign.com/Safety-Signs/Non-Potable-Water-Drinking-Washing-Sign/SAF-SKU-S-2837.aspx>

North Pole

Hide Details

From

- Russ Maddox

To

- nim.ha@alaska.gov
- tamara.cardona@alaska.gov

CC

- ann.farris@alaska.gov
- garcia.lisa@epa.gov

Dear Nim and Tamara,

Nim, I just received your phone message when I made it back home after the meeting. Tamara and Ann, I received an electronic response from the DEC commissioner an hour before I boarded the flight to Fairbanks on Thursday for the meeting. Its really disappointing to hear such absolute answers from both agencies without ever even having heard folks concerns. Lisa, the Health Dept has no intentions to screen for health issues or create any kind of registry. Lisa, the DEC refused to consider erecting warning signs over concerns of "stigmatizing Flint Hills Resources". And both of these messages were conveyed before the public meeting on Thursday.

ACAT will be preparing a formal report in letter form which will be coming from the affected folks themselves to the agencies and other decision makers upon completion. Many new stories and concerns came to light as always happens when you invite good folks to voice their concerns in a neutral non-threatening setting. Flint Hills did sweep in and take photos just before the meeting commenced knowing they were unwelcome and did send in a "mole", for the lack of a better term against locals wishes. Sadly, these actions totally validated and reaffirmed the public's distrust of the agencies and Flint Hills.

When asked if they were or knew someone who is still bathing and washing in tainted wellwater 25% responded affirmatively.

When asked if they were or someone they knew is still drinking or cooking with tainted wellwater 15% responded affirmatively.

When asked if they knew anyone unaware of the sulfolane in groundwater only 3% responded affirmatively this time. (This is a HUGE improvement so I know we have reached many already and collected names of targets and have notified them now, too.)

When asked if they or anyone they knew have pets with tumors 32% responded affirmatively. (This is a growing concern and a local DVM is concerned and will be collecting data and offerring exams)

When asked if they or anyone they knew have experienced persistent skin rashes they feel are associated with contaminated water a full third responded affirmatively.

Several new concerns were raised by this group.

Nearly all who have been switched to heated tanks with water deliveries complain of that water tasting like plastic and don't drink it for fear of ingesting plastic toxins. Were these plastic tanks designed to be perpetually heated while full of drinking water? Is this a safe practice?

Many folks with now unused wells left open/uncapped in their basements have noticed petroleum odors in their basements and homes. Some believe they are sick from the vapors.

Many folks still believe the city water piped in to their homes is tainted and won't drink it and feel it makes them sick when they do.

Many observations both negative and positive were raised regarding gardening and what water is used for watering and concerns of soil contamination.

I sincerely hope that you take this seriously and do somehow respond to folks' concerns. Nearly all alluded to depression and loss of sleep and domestic conflicts arising from this ongoing and overwhelming situation.

I'll let ACAT and good folks of North Pole tell you of their specific medical conditions themselves. Suffice it to say you all have a lot of work to do and a long ways to go to even convince these folks you truly care and won't somehow use their personal information to further defame and oppress them.

Sincerely, Russ